# BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the First Amended	)	
Accusation Against:	)	
	)	
	)	
BONNIE L. CHEN, M.D.	)	Case No. 800-2018-046060
	)	
Physician's and Surgeon's	)	
Certificate No. A150488	)	
	)	
Respondent	)	
-		

# **DECISION**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on October 23, 2019.

IT IS SO ORDERED: September 23, 2019.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Ronald H. Lewis, Chair

Panel A

1 2	XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California	*
3	JANE ZACK SIMON Supervising Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 116564	
4	455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000 San Francisco, CA 94102-7004	
5	Telephone: (415) 510-3521 Facsimile: (415) 703-5480	•
6	E-mail: Janezack.simon@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant	
7		ı
8	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CAI	
9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMS STATE OF CALIFOR	
10		
11   12	In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2018-046060
13	DONNIE V CYTEN M D	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT
14	BONNIE L. CHEN, M.D. 17671 Morocco Court Riverside, CA 92504  AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
15	Riverside, CA 92504	·
16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 150488	
17	Respondent.	
18	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by a	and between the parties to the above-
19 20	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:	
	<u>PARTIES</u>	·
21	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) is the Ex	ecutive Director of the Medical Board
22   23	of California (Board). She brought this action solely in her	official capacity and is represented in
24	this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the Stat	e of California, by Jane Zack Simon,
25	Supervising Deputy Attorney General.	
26	2. Respondent Bonnie L. Chen, M.D. (Responder	nt) is representing herself in this
27	proceeding and has chosen not to exercise her right to be re	epresented by counsel.
28		

3. On July 19, 2017, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 150488 to Bonnie L. Chen, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2018-046060, and will expire on January 31, 2019, unless renewed.

#### **JURISDICTION**

4. First Amended Accusation No. 800-2018-046060 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The First Amended Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent, who timely filed her Notice of Defense. A copy of First Amended Accusation No. 800-2018-046060 is attached as Exhibit A.

# **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in the First Amended Accusation. Respondent has also carefully read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the First Amended Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

#### **CULPABILITY**

- 8. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2018-046060, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.
- 9. For the purpose of resolving the First Amended Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could

establish a factual basis for the charges in the First Amended Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up her right to contest those charges.

10. Respondent agrees that her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to discipline and she agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

# **CONTINGENCY**

- 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 12. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

# **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 150488 issued to Respondent Bonnie L. Chen, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions.

1. <u>EDUCATION COURSE</u>. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and on an annual basis thereafter, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee

for its prior approval educational program(s) or course(s) which shall not be less than 40 hours per year, for each year of probation. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be aimed at correcting any areas of deficient practice or knowledge, shall include courses in the area of hormone replacement therapy and prescribing practices, and shall be Category I certified. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Following the completion of each course, the Board or its designee may administer an examination to test Respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of attendance for 65 hours of CME of which 40 hours were in satisfaction of this condition.

2. PRESCRIBING PRACTICES COURSE. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in prescribing practices approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall provide the approved course provider with any information and documents that the approved course provider may deem pertinent. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete the classroom component of the course not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment. Respondent shall successfully complete any other component of the course within one (1) year of enrollment. The prescribing practices course shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

A prescribing practices course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

3. <u>CLINICAL COMPETENCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM</u>. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a clinical competence assessment

program approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall successfully complete the program not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment unless the Board or its designee agrees in writing to an extension of that time.

The program shall consist of a comprehensive assessment of Respondent's physical and mental health and the six general domains of clinical competence as defined by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education and American Board of Medical Specialties pertaining to Respondent's current or intended area of practice. The program shall take into account data obtained from the pre-assessment, self-report forms and interview, and the Decision(s), Accusation(s), and any other information that the Board or its designee deems relevant. The program shall require Respondent's on-site participation for a minimum of three (3) and no more than five (5) days as determined by the program for the assessment and clinical education evaluation. Respondent shall pay all expenses associated with the clinical competence assessment program.

At the end of the evaluation, the program will submit a report to the Board or its designee which unequivocally states whether the Respondent has demonstrated the ability to practice safely and independently. Based on Respondent's performance on the clinical competence assessment, the program will advise the Board or its designee of its recommendation(s) for the scope and length of any additional educational or clinical training, evaluation or treatment for any medical condition or psychological condition, or anything else affecting Respondent's practice of medicine. Respondent shall comply with the program's recommendations.

Determination as to whether Respondent successfully completed the clinical competence assessment program is solely within the program's jurisdiction.

If Respondent fails to enroll, participate in, or successfully complete the clinical competence assessment program within the designated time period, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. The Respondent shall not resume the practice of medicine until enrollment or participation in the outstanding portions of the clinical competence assessment program have been completed. If the Respondent did not successfully complete the clinical

competence assessment program, the Respondent shall not resume the practice of medicine until a final decision has been rendered on the accusation and/or a petition to revoke probation. The cessation of practice shall not apply to the reduction of the probationary time period.]

4. <u>SOLO PRACTICE PROHIBITION</u>. Respondent is prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. Prohibited solo practice includes, but is not limited to, a practice where: 1) Respondent merely shares office space with another physician but is not affiliated for purposes of providing patient care, or 2) Respondent is the sole physician practitioner at that location.

If Respondent fails to establish a practice with another physician or secure employment in an appropriate practice setting within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. The Respondent shall not resume practice until an appropriate practice setting is established.

If, during the course of the probation, the Respondent's practice setting changes and the Respondent is no longer practicing in a setting in compliance with this Decision, the Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee within five (5) calendar days of the practice setting change. If Respondent fails to establish a practice with another physician or secure employment in an appropriate practice setting within 60 calendar days of the practice setting change, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. The Respondent shall not resume practice until an appropriate practice setting is established.

5. PROHIBITED PRACTICE. For the first year of probation, and until Respondent has completed the Prescribing Practices Course described above, Respondent is prohibited from prescribing hormone replacement medication to patients. After the effective date of this Decision, all patients being treated by the Respondent shall be notified that the Respondent is prohibited from prescribing hormone replacement medication. Any new patients must be provided this notification at the time of their initial appointment.

Respondent shall maintain a log of all patients to whom the required notification was

made. The log shall contain the: 1) patient's name, address and phone number; 2) patient's medical record number, if available; 3) the full name of the person making the notification; 4) the date the notification was made; and 5) a description of the notification given. Respondent shall keep this log in a separate file or ledger, in chronological order, shall make the log available for immediate inspection and copying on the premises at all times during business hours by the Board or its designee, and shall retain the log for the entire term of probation.

6. NOTIFICATION. Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision, the Respondent shall provide a true copy of this Decision and Accusation to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to Respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within 15 calendar days.

This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

- 7. <u>SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE</u>

  <u>NURSES.</u> During probation, Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses.
- 8. <u>OBEY ALL LAWS</u>. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.
- 9. <u>QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS</u>. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation.

Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

10. GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

Compliance with Probation Unit

Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit.

# Address Changes

Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Respondent's business and residence addresses, email address (if available), and telephone number. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

#### Place of Practice

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in Respondent's or patient's place of residence, unless the patient resides in a skilled nursing facility or other similar licensed facility.

# License Renewal

Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's license.

# Travel or Residence Outside California

Respondent shall immediately inform the Board or its designee, in writing, of travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than thirty (30) calendar days.

In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice ,Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return.

- 11. <u>INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE</u>. Respondent shall be available in person upon request for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the probation unit office, with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.
- 12. NON-PRACTICE WHILE ON PROBATION. Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing within 15 calendar days of any periods of non-practice lasting more than 30 calendar days and within 15 calendar days of Respondent's return to practice. Non-practice is defined as any period of time Respondent is not practicing medicine as defined in Business and

Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052 for at least 40 hours in a calendar month in direct patient care, clinical activity or teaching, or other activity as approved by the Board. If Respondent resides in California and is considered to be in non-practice, Respondent shall comply with all terms and conditions of probation. All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall not be considered non-practice and does not relieve Respondent from complying with all the terms and conditions of probation. Practicing medicine in another state of the United States or Federal jurisdiction while on probation with the medical licensing authority of that state or jurisdiction shall not be considered non-practice. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice.

In the event Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation exceeds 18 calendar months, Respondent shall successfully complete the Federation of State Medical Boards's Special Purpose Examination, or, at the Board's discretion, a clinical competence assessment program that meets the criteria of Condition 18 of the current version of the Board's "Manual of Model Disciplinary Orders and Disciplinary Guidelines" prior to resuming the practice of medicine.

Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation shall not exceed two (2) years. Periods of non-practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term.

Periods of non-practice for a Respondent residing outside of California will relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws; General Probation Requirements; Quarterly Declarations; Abstain from the Use of Alcohol and/or Controlled Substances; and Biological Fluid Testing..

- 13. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u>. Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.
- 14. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u>. Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the

Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

- Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request to surrender his or her license. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion in determining whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its designee and Respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation. If Respondent re-applies for a medical license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.
- 16. <u>PROBATION MONITORING COSTS</u>. Respondent shall pay the costs associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Board, which may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California and delivered to the Board or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar year.

#### **ACCEPTANCE**

I have carefully read the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

DATED: August 16, 201e

BONNIE L. CHEN, M.D

Respondent

# **ENDORSEMENT** The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California. DATED: \_\_\_ Respectfully submitted, XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California JANE ZACK SIMON Supervising Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant SF2018201628 21544745.docx

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1	XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California			
2	JANE ZACK SIMON Supervising Deputy Attorney General	FILED STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
3	State Bar No. 116564 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000	STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
4	San Francisco, CA 94102-7004	SACEMENTO 1442 20 19 ANALYST		
5	Facsimile: (415) 703-5480 E-mail: Janezack.simon@doj.ca.gov	ANALIST		
6	Attorneys for Complainant			
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8	BEFORE TI			
9	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
10	STATE OF CALL	FORMA		
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12	In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation	Case No. 800-2018-046060		
13	Against:	FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION		
14	BONNIE L. CHEN, M.D. 17671 Morocco Court Riverside, CA 92504			
15				
16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A150488			
17	Respondent.			
18	The Complainant alleges:	•		
19	Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) is th	e Executive Director of the Medical Board		
20	of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, and b	rings this First Amended Accusation solely		
21	in her official capacity.	·		
22	2. On July 19, 2017, Physician's and Surgeon	n's Certificate No. A150488 was issued by		
23	the Medical Board of California (Board) to Bonnie L.	Chen, M.D. (Respondent). The certificate		
24	is renewed and current with an expiration date of Janu	ary 31, 2021. Prior disciplinary action was		
25	taken by the Medical Board of California against this	certificate in Case No. 800-2017-034433 as		
26	follows: On July 19, 2017, a Public Letter of Reprima	and was issued.		
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28.	1//			

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 3. This First Amended Accusation is brought before the Medical Board of California under the authority of the following sections of the California Business and Professions Code (Code) and/or other relevant statutory enactment:
  - A. Section 2227 of the Code provides in part that the Board may revoke, suspend for a period not to exceed one year, or place on probation, the license of any licensee who has been found guilty under the Medical Practice Act, and may recover the costs of probation monitoring.
  - B. Section 2305 of the Code provides, in part, that the revocation, suspension, or other discipline, restriction or limitation imposed by another state upon a license to practice medicine issued by that state, or the revocation, suspension, or restriction of the authority to practice medicine by any agency of the federal government, that would have been grounds for discipline in California under the Medical Practice Act, constitutes grounds for discipline for unprofessional conduct.
  - C. Section 141 of the Code provides:
    - "(a) For any licensee holding a license issued by a board under the jurisdiction of a department, a disciplinary action taken by another state, by any agency of the federal government, or by another country for any act substantially related to the practice regulated by the California license, may be a ground for disciplinary action by the respective state licensing board. A certified copy of the record of the disciplinary action taken against the licensee by another state, an agency of the federal government, or by another country shall be conclusive evidence of the events related therein.
    - "(b) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from applying a specific statutory provision in the licensing act administered by the board that provides for discipline based upon a disciplinary action taken against the licensee by another state, an agency of the federal government, or another country."

#### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### (Discipline, Restriction, or Limitation Imposed by Other States)

4. In a decision effective August 12, 2018, the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners issued a Consent Order of Permanent Retirement regarding Respondent's license to practice medicine in the state of New Jersey. The Consent Order of Permanent Retirement

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resolved allegations pertaining to Respondent's prescribing and dispensing of hormone replacement medications. Under the terms of the Consent Order of Permanent Retirement, Respondent was required to retire her New Jersey medical license, with such retirement deemed to be a permanent revocation. A copy of the Consent Order of Permanent Retirement issued by the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners is attached as Exhibit A.

- 5. On October 25, 2018, the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine issued a Consent Agreement and Order, under which Respondent's Pennsylvania medical license was permanently surrendered. A copy of the Pennsylvania Consent Agreement and Order, which was based on the action taken by the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners, is attached as Exhibit B.
- 6. On October 18, 2018, the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct issued a Surrender Order to resolve a Statement of Charges based on the action taken by the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners. A copy of the Surrender Order issued by the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct is attached as Exhibit C.
- 7. Respondent's conduct and the actions of the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners, the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine and the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct, as set forth in paragraphs 4-6, above, constitute cause for discipline pursuant to sections 2305 and/or 141 of the Code.

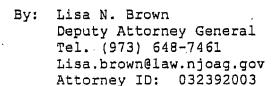
#### **PRAYER**

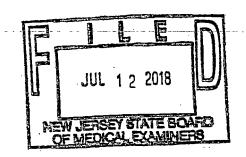
WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A150488 issued to respondent Bonnie L. Chen, M.D.;
- 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent's authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
- 3. Ordering Respondent, if placed on probation, to pay the costs of probation monitoring; and

1	4. Taking such other and f	further action as the Board deems necessary and proper.
2	DATED: May 2, 2019	Kinding Kuchun
3		KIMBERLY KIRCHMEYER  Executive Director  Medical Board of California
4		Medical Board of California Department of Consumer Affairs State of California
5		Complainant
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GURBIR S. GREWAL ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY Division of Law 124 Halsey Street P.O. Box 45029 Newark, New Jersey 07101





EFFECTIVE DATE: August 12, 2018

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION: OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF:

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Bonnie Chen, M.D. License NO: 25MA07260600 CONSENT ORDER OF PERMANENT RETIREMENT

TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") upon receipt of information alleging that Bonnie Chen, M.D. ("Respondent") had not complied with the statutes and regulations governing the conduct of licensed physicians in the State of New Jersey. Specifically, in 2015, the Board received allegations about her prescribing and dispensing of hormone replacement medications to her patients. After Respondent's testimony before a committee of the Board in 2015 and

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

evaluating medical records, the Board had concerns with Respondent's prescribing and dispensing of hormone replacement medications.

Respondent now seeks leave to voluntarily permanently retire from the practice of medicine in New Jersey with an agreement not to reapply, in order to fully resolve all outstanding inquiries without making any admissions, and agrees to the entry of this Order without the need for formal proceeding, having read the terms of the within Order, understanding their meaning and effect and consenting to be bound by same; and the Board finding the within disposition to be adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and being satisfied that good cause exists for entry of the within Order.

IT IS THEREFORE ON THIS A DAY OF July , 2018 ORDERED:

- 1. Bonnie Chen, M.D. is hereby granted leave to and shall retire her license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey, with such retirement to be deemed a permanent revocation. This permanent revocation shall become effective thirty (30) days from the date this Order is filed.
- 2. During the thirty day wind down period, Respondent shall accept no new patients and shall make every effort to ensure the orderly transfer of her current patients to other treatment providers. Respondent may issue prescriptions or renewals for medication to existing patients only as needed to provide

treatment continuity between herself and the patient's new treatment provider.

- 3. Respondent agrees to not reapply for a New Jersey medical license or to seek a CDS registration in New Jersey in the future.
- 4. Respondent shall thirty (30) days after the date this Order is filed return her original New Jersey medical license and CDS registration to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners, P.O. Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183. She shall also advise the Drug Enforcement Agency of this Order, specifically the permanent revocation of her medical license and provide the Board with proof of said notification.
- 5. Following the close of business on the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the filing of this Consent Order, Respondent shall cease and desist all patient contact at any location and the rendering of medical care, including the issuance of any prescriptions for, or dispensation of, medications of any kind, including but not limited to Controlled Dangerous Substances.
- 6. Following the close of business on the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the filing of this Consent Order, as a result of her voluntary permanent retirement, Respondent shall not enter the premises of her former medical practice during business hours when patients may be present.

- 7. Following the close of business on the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the filing of this Consent Order, Respondent shall not charge, receive or share in any fee for professional services rendered by others. Respondent shall be permitted to collect accounts receivable with respect to professional services that she rendered prior to the effective date of her revocation. Respondent shall divest herself from any current and future financial interest in or benefit derived from the practice of medicine.
- 8. As a result of her voluntary permanent retirement,
  Respondent shall be precluded from managing, overseeing,
  supervising or influencing the practice of medicine or provision
  of healthcare activities in the State of New Jersey.
- 9. Respondent shall comply with N.J.A.C. 13:35-6.5(h), the board regulation for practice closure. Within thirty (30) days of the filing of this Consent Order, Respondent is to notify William V. Roeder, Executive Director, State Board of Medical Examiners, 140 East Front Street, P.O. Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183 as to where her patient records are secured, and how patients may obtain them.
- 10. Respondent shall comply with the Directives applicable to any Medical Board licensee whose permanent retirement of licensure or cessation of practice has been ordered or agreed upon or who is disciplined, which are attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and incorporated by reference.

- The parties hereby stipulate that entry of this Order is without prejudice to further action of matters unknown at this time, by this Board, the Attorney General, the Drug Control Unit, the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs or other law enforcement entities resulting from Respondent's conduct prior to the entry of this Order.
- Failure to comply with any provision of this Order will result in subsequent disciplinary proceedings for failure to comply with an Order of the Board.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

Paul J. Carniol, M.D., Board President

I have read and understood the within Order and agree to be bound by its terms.

Bonnie Chen, M.D.

Consent is hereby given as to the form/And entry of this Order.

By:

Grace Mack, Esq. Milentz, Goldman & Spitzer Attorney for Respondent

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs

File No.:

18-49-006231

On controlling

VS.

Bonnie L. Chen, M.D., Respondent

# **CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER**

#### **PARTIES**

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs ("Commonwealth") and Bonnie L. Chen, M.D. ("Respondent") stipulate as follows in settlement of the above-captioned case.

#### APPLICABLE LAW

1. This matter is before the State Board of Medicine ("Board") pursuant to the Medical Practice Act of 1985, act of December 20, 1985, P.L. 457, No. 112, ("Act"), as amended, 63 P.S. §§ 422.1-422.53; the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error ("Mcare") Act, Act of March 20, 2002, P.L. 154, No. 13, as amended, 40 P.S. §§ 1303.101-1303.910; and/or the Act of July 2, 1993, P.L. 345, No. 48 ("ACT 48"), as amended, 63 P.S. §§ 2201-2207.

# LICENSURE STATUS

At all relevant and material times, Respondent held the following license to practice
as a medical physician and surgeon in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: license no.
 MD422582, which was originally issued on September 4, 2003, and which expired on December
31, 2008.

#### STIPULATED FACTS

- 3. The Respondent admits that the following allegations are true:
- a. Absent additional Board action, Respondent's license may be continually reactivated, renewed, or reinstated upon the filing of the appropriate documentation and payment of the necessary fees.
- Respondent's current address is 243 Horseneck Road, Fairfield, NJ 07004.
- c. At all relevant and material times, Respondent was authorized to practice as a physician in the State of New Jersey.
- d. On or about July 12, 2018, the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners ("New Jersey Board") approved a Consent Order of Permanent Retirement ("Consent Order") In the Matter of the Suspension or Revocation of the License of Bonnie Chen. M.D. to Practice Medicine and Surgery in the State of New Jersey.
- e. A true and correct copy of the Consent Order is attached as **Exhibit A** and is incorporated by reference.
- f. Pursuant to the Consent Order, the New Jersey Board granted leave for Respondent to retire her license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey, with such retirement to be deemed a permanent revocation.

# **ALLEGED VIOLATIONS**

4. The Commonwealth alleges that the Board is authorized to suspend or revoke, or otherwise restrict Respondent's license under Sections 41 and 42 of the Act, 63 P.S. §§ 422.41 & 422.42; or impose a civil penalty under Section 908 of the Mcare Act, 40 P.S. §§ 1303.908, and/or Section 5(b)(4) of ACT 48, 63 P.S. §2205(b)(4) and/or impose the costs of investigation

under Section 5(b)(5) of ACT 48, 63 P.S. § 2205(b)(5), because Respondent violated the Act at Section 41(4), 63 P.S. § 422.41(4), in that Respondent had a license or other authorization to practice the profession disciplined by the proper licensing authority of another state.

#### PROPOSED ORDER

- 5. The parties, intending to be legally bound, consent to the issuance of the following Order in settlement of this matter:
  - a. The Board finds that it is authorized to suspend or revoke, or otherwise restrict Respondent's license under Sections 41 and 42 of the Act, 63 P.S. §§ 422.41 & 422.42; or impose a civil penalty under Section 908 of the Mcare Act,40 P.S. §§ 1303.908, and/or Section 5(b)(4) of ACT 48, 63 P.S. §2205(b)(4) and/or impose the costs of investigation under Section 5(b)(5) of ACT 48, 63 P.S. § 2205(b)(5), because Respondent violated the Act at Section 41(4), 63 P.S. § 422.41(4), in that Respondent had a license or other authorization to practice the profession disciplined by the proper licensing authority of another state.

# PERMANENT VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

b. In consideration for not imposing other disciplinary sanctions (which could include the revocation of Respondent's license to practice as a medical physician and surgeon and the imposition of civil penalties and/or the costs of investigation), the Parties propose, and the Board hereby accepts, the permanent VOLUNTARY SURRENDER of Respondent's license to practice as a medical physician and surgeon in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, along with any other licenses, registrations, certificates, approvals, authorizations, or permits (hereinafter referred to collectively as "authorizations to practice the profession") issued by the Board to Respondent at the time this Consent Agreement is adopted

by the Board. Respondent acknowledges that with the permanent voluntary surrender of her authorizations to practice the profession, Respondent is surrendering any and all property rights she may have in those authorizations to practice the profession and will no longer be eligible to renew those authorizations to practice the profession. As further stated consideration for the Commonwealth not seeking other disciplinary sanctions against Respondent, Respondent agrees to:

- (1) cease practicing as a medical physician and surgeon in the Commonwealth on and after the effective date of this Consent Agreement, and shall not indicate any ability to practice the profession in the Commonwealth in any manner whatsoever in the future,
- (2) Unless otherwise specified in this agreement,
  Respondent agrees to not apply, at any time in the future,
  for the reactivation, reinstatement, reissuance, or the
  issuance of any authorization to practice issued by the
  Board and further directs that the board should not
  consider, and may deny without hearing, any application
  for an authorization to practice filed with the Board,
- (3) not work as an unlicensed assistant to any person holding an authorization from the Board to practice the profession,

- (4) not possess a controlling interest in any organization requiring an authorization from the Board to practice the profession,
- (5) not possess a controlling interest in any organization whose employees require an authorization from the Board to practice the profession when conducting the business of the organization,
- c. For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'controlling interest' shall include being an owner, officer, manager, director, partner, member, or associate, as well as owning any quantity of outstanding corporate stock sufficient to control or direct the actions of the firm.
- d. Respondent shall, within ten (10) days of adoption of this Consent
  Agreement and Order, surrender Respondent's wall certificate, biennial renewal
  certificate and wallet card (or notarized affidavit of their loss or destruction) by
  mailing them to:

Keith E. Bashore, Prosecuting Attorney Pennsylvania Department of State P.O. Box 69521 Harrisburg, PA 17106-9521

or by delivering them in person at:

Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs One Penn Center 2601 North 3rd St. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

- e. This Order constitutes disciplinary action by the Board and shall be reported to other licensing authorities and any applicable national licensing databank as a disciplinary action by the Board.
- f. This case shall be deemed settled and discontinued upon the Board issuing an Order adopting this Consent Agreement.

# ADMISSIBILITY OF CONSENT AGREEMENT IN FUTURE PROCEEDINGS

6. Respondent agrees that if Respondent is charged with a violation of an Act enforced by this Board in the future, this Consent Agreement and Order shall be admitted into evidence without objection in that proceeding.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NOTICE AND WAIVER OF HEARING**

7. Respondent acknowledges receipt of an Order to Show Cause in this matter.

Respondent knowingly and voluntarily waives the right to an administrative hearing in this matter, and knowingly and voluntarily waives the following rights related to that hearing: to be represented by counsel at the hearing; to present witnesses and testimony in defense or in mitigation of any sanction that may be imposed for a violation; to cross-examine witnesses and to challenge evidence presented by the Commonwealth; to present legal arguments by means of a brief; and to take an appeal from any final adverse decision.

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RIGHT TO ATTORNEY**

8. Respondent acknowledges that she is aware that she has the right to consult with, and/or be represented by, private legal counsel of Respondent's choosing and at Respondent's expense when reviewing, considering and accepting the terms of this Consent Agreement. To the extent that Respondent is not represented by legal counsel, Respondent has knowingly elected to proceed without the assistance of legal counsel.

#### WAIVER OF CLAIM OF COMMINGLING AND OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL CLAIMS

9. Respondent expressly waives any constitutional rights and issues, such as commingling of prosecutorial and adjudicative functions by the Board or its counsel, which may arise or have arisen during the negotiation, preparation and/or presentation of this Consent Agreement. Respondent specifically agrees that if the Board rejects this agreement, it may assume that the facts and averments as alleged in this Consent Agreement are true and correct for the limited purpose of recommending a sanction, based on those assumed facts, that would be acceptable to the Board before hearing the case. In the event that the Board does assume the facts and averments as alleged in this Consent Agreement are true for purposes of making a recommendation as to an acceptable sanction, such action shall not constitute commingling of prosecutorial and adjudicative functions by the Board or its counsel, and the Respondent expressly waives any constitutional rights and issues related to alleged commingling, bias, or violation of due process rights to have an unbiased and impartial adjudicator in any subsequent hearing. If a hearing is subsequently held, neither this Consent Agreement nor the proposed terms of settlement may be admitted into evidence and any facts, averments, and allegations contained in the Consent Agreement must be proven at hearing unless otherwise separately stipulated. This paragraph is binding on the participants even if the Board does not approve this Consent Agreement.

# **NO MODIFICATION OF ORDER**

10. Respondent agrees, as a condition of entering into this Consent Agreement, not to seek modification at a later date of the Stipulated Order adopting and implementing this Consent Agreement without first obtaining the express written concurrence of the Prosecution Division.

#### AGREEMENT NOT BINDING ON OTHER PARTIES

11. The Office of General Counsel has approved this Consent Agreement as to form and legality; however, this Consent Agreement shall have no legal effect unless and until the Board issues an Order approving and adopting this Consent Agreement.

# EFFECT OF BOARD'S REJECTION OF CONSENT AGREEMENT

12. Should the Board not approve this Consent Agreement, presentation to and consideration of this Consent Agreement and other documents and matters by the Board shall not prejudice the Board or any of its members from further participation in the adjudication of this matter. This paragraph is binding on the participants even if the Board does not approve this Consent Agreement.

# AGREEMENT DOES NOT PREVENT ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINE BASED ON OTHER COMPLAINTS

13. Nothing in this Order shall preclude the Prosecution Division for the Commonwealth from filing charges or the Board from imposing disciplinary or corrective measures for violations or facts not contained in this Consent Agreement;

#### **ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

14. This agreement contains the whole agreement between the participants; provided however, that the captions printed in the various provisions of this agreement are for ease of reading only and are not to be interpreted as forming any part of this agreement. There are no other terms, obligations, covenants, representations, statements or conditions, or otherwise, of any kind whatsoever concerning this agreement.

# VERIFICATION OF FACTS AND STATEMENTS

15. Respondent verifies that the facts and statements set forth in this Consent Agreement are true and correct to the best of Respondent's knowledge, information and belief. Respondent understands that statements in this Consent Agreement are made subject to the criminal

penalties of 18 Pa C.S.A. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities:

Keith E. Bashore Prosecuting Attorney

DATED: 8/21/18

Bonnie L Chen, M.D. Respondent

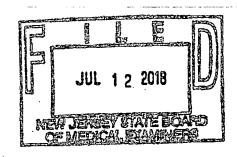
DATED: 8/16/2018



GURBIR S. GREWAL ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY Division of Law 124 Halsey Street P.O. Box 45029 Newark, New Jersey 07101

By: Lisa N. Brown

Deputy Attorney General Tel. (973) 648-7461 Lisa.brown@law.njoag.gov Attorney ID: 032392003



EFFECTIVE DATE: August 12, 2018

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION: OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF:

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Bonnie Chen, M.D. License NO: 25MA07260600 CONSENT ORDER OF PERMANENT RETIREMENT

TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") upon receipt of information alleging that Bonnie Chen, M.D. ("Respondent") had not complied with the statutes and regulations governing the conduct of licensed physicians in the State of New Jersey. Specifically, in 2015, the Board received allegations about her prescribing and dispensing of hormone replacement medications to her patients. After Respondent's testimony before a committee of the Board in 2015 and

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

evaluating medical records, the Board had concerns with Respondent's prescribing and dispensing of hormone replacement medications.

Respondent now seeks leave to voluntarily permanently retire from the practice of medicine in New Jersey with an agreement not to reapply, in order to fully resolve all outstanding inquiries without making any admissions, and agrees to the entry of this Order without the need for formal proceeding, having read the terms of the within Order, understanding their meaning and effect and consenting to be bound by same; and the Board finding the within disposition to be adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and being satisfied that good cause exists for entry of the within Order.

IT IS THEREFORE ON THIS AT DAY OF JULY, 2018 ORDERED:

- 1. Bonnie Chen, M.D. is hereby granted leave to and shall retire her license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey, with such retirement to be deemed a permanent revocation. This permanent revocation shall become effective thirty (30) days from the date this Order is filed.
- 2. During the thirty day wind down period, Respondent shall accept no new patients and shall make every effort to ensure the orderly transfer of her current patients to other treatment providers. Respondent may issue prescriptions or renewals for medication to existing patients only as needed to provide

treatment continuity between herself and the patient's new treatment provider.

- 3. Respondent agrees to not reapply for a New Jersey medical license or to seek a CDS registration in New Jersey in the future.
- 4. Respondent shall thirty (30) days after the date this Order is filed return her original New Jersey medical license and CDS registration to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners, P.O. Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183. She shall also advise the Drug Enforcement Agency of this Order, specifically the permanent revocation of her medical license and provide the Board with proof of said notification.
- 5. Following the close of business on the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the filing of this Consent Order, Respondent shall cease and desist all patient contact at any location and the rendering of medical care, including the issuance of any prescriptions for, or dispensation of, medications of any kind, including but not limited to Controlled Dangerous Substances.
- 6. Following the close of business on the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the filing of this Consent Order, as a result of her voluntary permanent retirement, Respondent shall not enter the premises of her former medical practice during business hours when patients may be present.

- 7. Following the close of business on the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the filing of this Consent Order, Respondent shall not charge, receive or share in any fee for professional services rendered by others. Respondent shall be permitted to collect accounts receivable with respect to professional services that she rendered prior to the effective date of her revocation. Respondent shall divest herself from any current and future financial interest in or benefit derived from the practice of medicine.
- 8. As a result of her voluntary permanent retirement, Respondent shall be precluded from managing, overseeing, supervising or influencing the practice of medicine or provision of healthcare activities in the State of New Jersey.
- 9. Respondent shall comply with N.J.A.C. 13:35-6.5(h), the board regulation for practice closure. Within thirty (30) days of the filing of this Consent Order, Respondent is to notify William V. Roeder, Executive Director, State Board of Medical Examiners, 140 East Front Street, P.O. Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183 as to where her patient records are secured, and how patients may obtain them.
- 10. Respondent shall comply with the Directives applicable to any Medical Board licensee whose permanent retirement of licensure or cessation of practice has been ordered or agreed upon or who is disciplined, which are attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and incorporated by reference.

- 11. The parties hereby stipulate that entry of this Order is without prejudice to further action of matters unknown at this time, by this Board, the Attorney General, the Drug Control Unit, the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs or other law enforcement entities resulting from Respondent's conduct prior to the entry of this Order.
- 12. Failure to comply with any provision of this Order will result in subsequent disciplinary proceedings for failure to comply with an Order of the Board.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

Paul J. Carniol, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Board President

I have read and understood the within Order and agree to be bound by its terms.

Bonnie Chen, M.D.

Dated:

1/9/18

Consent is hereby given as to the form and entry of this Order.

By:

Grace Mack, Esq.

Milentz, Goldman & Spitzer Attorney for Respondent Dated: 7/9/18

# DIRECTIVES APPLICABLE TO ANY MEDICAL BOARD LICENSEE WHO IS DISCIPLINED OR WEOSE SURRENDER OF LICENSURE OR CESSATION OF PRACTICE HAS BEEN ORDERED OR AGREED UPON

### APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON AUGUST 12, 2015

All licensees who are the subject of a disciplinary order or surrender or cessation order (herein after, "Order") of the Board shall provide the information required on the addendum to these directives. Failure to provide the information required may result in further disciplinary action for failing to cooperate with the Board, as required by N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1 et seq: Paragraphs 1 through 4 below shall apply when a licensee is suspended, revoked, has surrendered his or her license, or entered into an agreement to cease practice, with or without prejudice, whether on an interim or final basis. Paragraph 5 applies to licensees who are the subject of an order which, while permitting continued practice, contains probationary terms or monitoring requirement.

## 1. Document Return and Agency Notification

The licensee shall promptly forward to the Board office at Post Office Box 183, 140 East Front Street, 2nd floor, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183, the original license, current biennial registration and, if applicable, the original CDS registration. In addition, if the licensee holds a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) registration, he or she shall promptly advise the DEA of the licensure action. (With respect to suspensions of a finite term, at the conclusion of the term, the licensee may contact the Board office for the return of the documents previously surrendered to Prior to the resumption of any prescribing of the Board. controlled dangerous substances, the licensee shall petition the Director of Consumer Affairs for a return of the CDS registration if the basis for discipline involved CDS misconduct. In addition, at the conclusion of the term, the licensee should contact the DEA to advise of the resumption of practice and to ascertain the impact of that change upon his/her DEA registration.)

#### 2. Practice Cessation

The licensee shall cease and desist from engaging in the practice of medicine in this State. This prohibition not only bars a licensee from rendering professional services, but also from providing an opinion as to professional practice or its application, or representing him/herself as being eligible to practice. (Although the licensee need not affirmatively advise patients or others of the revocation, suspension, surrender or cessation, the licensee must truthfully disclose his/her licensure status in response to inquiry.) The licensee subject to the order

is also prohibited from occupying, sharing or using office space in which another licensee provides health care services. The licensee subject to the order may contract for, accept payment from another licensee for rent at fair market value for office premises and/or equipment. In no case may the licensee subject to the order authorize, allow or condone the use of his/her provider number by any health care practice or any other licensee or health care provider. In situations where the licensee has been subject to the order for less than one year, the licensee may accept payment from another professional who is using his/her office during the period that the licensee is (suspended), subject to the order for the payment of salaries for office staff employed at the time of the Board action.

A licensee whose license has been revoked, suspended or subject to a surrender or cessation order for one (1) year or more must immediately take steps to remove signs and take affirmative action to stop advertisements by which his/her eligibility to practice is represented. The licensee must also take steps to remove his/her professional listings, telephone directories, professional stationery, or billings. If the licensee's name is utilized in a group practice title, it shall be deleted. Prescription pads bearing the licensee's name shall be destroyed. A destruction report form obtained from the Office of Drug Control (973-504-6558) must be filed. If no other licensee is providing services at the location, all medications must be removed and returned the manufacturer, if possible, to destroyed safeguarded. (In situations where a license has been suspended for less than one year, prescription pads and medications need not be destroyed but must be secured in a locked place for safekeeping.)

3. Practice Income Prohibitions/Divestiture of Equity Interest in Professional Service Corporations and Limited Liability Companies

A licensee subject to the order shall not charge, receive or share in any fee for professional services rendered by him/herself or others while barred from engaging in the professional practice. The licensee may be compensated for the reasonable value of services lawfully rendered and disbursements incurred on a patient's behalf prior to the effective date of the Board order.

This bar on the receipt of any fee for professional services is not applicable to cease and desist orders where there are no findings that would be a basis for Board action, such as those entered adjourning a hearing.

licensee who is a shareholder in a professional service corporation organized to engage in the professional practice, whose license is revoked, surrendered or suspended or who is ordered to cease practice for a term of one (1) year or more shall be deemed to be disqualified from the practice within the meaning of the Professional Service Corporation Act. (N.J.S.A. 14A:17-11). A disqualified licensee shall divest him/herself of all financial interest in the professional service corporation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 14A:17-13(c). A disqualified licensee who is a member of a limited liability company organized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 42:1-44, shall also divest him/herself of all financial interest. Such divestiture of the licensee's interest in the limited liability company or professional service corporation shall occur within 90 days following the entry of the order rendering the licensee disqualified to participate in the applicable form of ownership. Upon divestiture, a licensee shall forward to the Board a copy of documentation forwarded to the Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services demonstrating that the interest has been terminated. If the licensee is the sole shareholder in a professional service corporation or sole member of the limited liability company, the corporation must be dissolved within 90 days of the licensee's disqualification unless it is lawfully transferred to another licensee and documentation of the valuation consideration paid is also provided to the Board. process

#### 4. Medical Records

If, as a result of the Board's action, a practice is closed or transferred to another location, the licensee shall ensure that (during the three (3) month period) immediately following the effective date of the disciplinary order, a message will be delivered to patients calling the former office premises, advising where records may be obtained. The message should inform patients of the names and telephone numbers of the licensee (or his/her attorney) assuming custody of the records. The same information shall also be disseminated by means of a notice to be published at circulation in the geographic vicinity in which the practice was conducted. If the licensee has a website, a notice shall be posted on the website as well.

At the end of the three month period, the licensee shall file with the Board the name and telephone number of the contact person who will have access to medical records of former patients. Any change in that individual or his/her telephone number shall be promptly reported to the Board. When a patient or his/her representative requests a copy of his/her medical record or asks that record be forwarded to another health care provider, the licensee shall promptly provide the record without charge to the patient.

#### 5. Probation/Monitoring Conditions

With respect to any licensee who is the subject of any order imposing a probation or monitoring requirement or a stay of an active suspension, in whole or in part, which is conditioned upon compliance with a probation or monitoring requirement, the licensee shall fully cooperate with the Board and its designated representatives, including the Enforcement Bureau of the Division of Consumer Affairs, in ongoing monitoring of the licensee's status and practice. Such monitoring shall be at the expense of the disciplined practitioner.

- (a) Monitoring of practice conditions may include, but is not limited to, inspection of the professional premises and equipment, and Inspection and copying of patient records (confidentiality of patient identity shall be protected by the Board) to verify compliance with the Board Order and accepted standards of practice.
- (b) Monitoring of status conditions for an impaired practitioner may include, but is not limited to, practitioner cooperation in providing releases permitting unrestricted access to records and other information to the extent permitted by law from any treatment facility, other treating practitioner, support group or other individual/facility involved in the education, treatment, monitoring or oversight of the practitioner, or maintained by a rehabilitation program for impaired practitioners. If bodily substance monitoring has been ordered, the practitioner shall fully cooperate by responding to a demand for breath, blood, urine or other sample in a timely manner and providing the designated sample.

### 6. Payment of Civil and Criminal Penalties and Costs.

With respect to any licensee who is the subject of any order imposing a civil penalty and/or costs, the licensee shall satisfy the payment obligations within the time period ordered by the Board or be subject to collection efforts or the filing of a certificate of debt. The Board shall not consider any application for reinstatement nor shall any appearance before a committee of the Board seeking reinstatement be scheduled until such time as the Board ordered payments are satisfied in full. (The Board at its discretion may grant installment payments for not more than a 24 months period.)

As to the satisfaction of criminal penalties and civil forfeitures, the Board will consider a reinstatement application so long as the licensee is current in his or her payment plans.

## NOTICE OF REPORTING PRACTICES OF BOARD REGARDING DISCIPLINARY ORDERS/ACTIONS

All Orders filed by the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners are "government records" as defined under the Open Public Records Act and are available for public inspection, copying or examination. See N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1, et seq., N.J.S.A. 52:14B-3(3). Should any inquiry be made to the Board concerning the status of a licensee who has been the subject of a Board Order, the inquirer will be informed of the existence of the Order and a copy will be provided on request. Unless sealed or otherwise confidential, all documents filed in public actions taken against licensees, to include documents filed or introduced into evidence in evidentiary hearings, proceedings on motions or other applications conducted as public hearings, and the transcripts of any such proceedings, are "government records" available for public inspection, copying or examination.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:9-22, a description of any final board disciplinary action taken within the most recent ten years is included on the New Jersey Health Care Profile maintained by the Division of Consumer Affairs for all licensed physicians. Links to copies of Orders described thereon are also available on the Profile website. See <a href="http://www.njdoctorlist.com">http://www.njdoctorlist.com</a>.

Copies of disciplinary Orders entered by the Board are additionally posted and available for inspection or download on the Board of Medical Examiners' website.

See <a href="http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/bme.">http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/bme.</a>

Pursuant to federal law, the Board is required to report to the National Practitioner Data Bank (the "NPDB") certain adverse licensure actions taken against licensees related to professional competence or conduct, generally including the revocation or suspension of a license; reprimand; censure; and/or probation. Additionally, any negative action or finding by the Board that, under New Jersey law, is publicly available information is reportable to the NPDB, to include, without limitation, limitations on scope of practice and final adverse actions that occur in conjunction with settlements in which no finding of liability has been made. Additional information regarding the specific actions which the Board is required to report to the National Practitioner Data Bank can be found in the NPDB Guidebook issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in April 2015. See http://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/resources/npdbguidebook.pdf.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A.45:9-19.13, in any case in which the Board refuses to issue, suspends, revokes or otherwise places conditions on a license or permit, the Board is required to notify each licensed health care facility and health maintenance organization with which a licensee is affiliated and every other board licensee in this state with whom he or she is directly associated in private medical practice.

In accordance with an agreement with the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, a list of all disciplinary orders entered by the Board is provided to the Federation on a monthly basis.

From time to time, the Press Office of the Division of Consumer Affairs may issue press releases including information regarding public actions taken by the Board.

Nothing herein is intended in any way to limit the Board, the Division of Consumer Affairs or the Attorney General from disclosing any public document.

#### COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs

File No .:

18-49-006231

VS.

Bonnie L. Chen, M.D., Respondent

2018, the STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE

("Board") approves and adopts the foregoing Consent Agreement and incorporates the terms of paragraph 5, which shall constitute the Board's Order and is now issued in resolution of this matter.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

**BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND** OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

Ian J. Harlow Commissioner

For the Commonwealth:

For the Respondent:

Date of mailing:

BY ORDER:

STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE

Keith E. Loiselle

Chair

Keith E. Bashore, Prosecuting Attorney

2601 North Third Street

P.O. Box 69521

Harrisburg, PA 17106-9521

Bonnie L Chen, M.D. 243 Horseneck Road Fairfield, NJ 07004

10/25/18

## NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STATE-BOARD-FOR-PROFESSIONAL-MEDICAL-CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER

OF

BONNIE L. CHEN, M.D.

BPMC No. 18-234
SURRENDER
ORDER

Upon the application of (Respondent) BONNIE L. CHEN, M.D. to surrender his or her license as a physician in the State of New York, which is made a part of this Surrender Order, it is

ORDERED, that the Surrender, and its terms, are adopted and it is further

ORDERED, that Respondent's name be stricken from the roster of physicians in the State of

New York; it is further

ORDERED, that this Order shall be effective upon issuance by the Board, either

- by mailing of a copy of this Surrender Order, either by first class mail to Respondent at the address in the attached Surrender of License application or by certified mail to Respondent's attorney, OR
- upon facsimile transmission to Respondent or Respondent's attorney.
   Whichever is first,

SO ORDERED.

DATE: 10/18/2018

ARTHUR S. HENGERER, M.D.

Chair

State Board for Professional Medical Conduct

IN THE MATTER

OF

BONNIE L. CHEN, M.D.

SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER

BONNIE L. CHEN, M.D., represents that all of the following statements are true:

That on or about April 6, 2004, I was licensed to practice as a physician in the State of New York and issued License No. 231900 by the New York State Education Department.

My current address is

I understand that the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (Board) has charged me with one or more specifications of professional misconduct, as set forth in a Statement of Charges, marked as Exhibit "A", which is attached to and part of this Surrender of License.

I am applying to the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct for permission to surrender my license as a physician in the State of New York on the grounds that I do not contest the Statement of Charges in full satisfaction of the charges against me.

I ask the Board to accept my Surrender of License, and I agree to be bound by all of the terms set forth in attached Exhibit "B".

I understand that, if the Board does not accept my Surrender of License, none of its terms shall bind me or constitute an admission of any of the acts of misconduct alleged; this application shall not be used against me in any way and shall be kept in strict confidence; and the Board's denial shall be without prejudice to the pending disciplinary proceeding and the Board's final determination pursuant to the Public Health Law.

I agree that, if the Board accepts my Surrender of License, the Chair of the Board shall issue a Surrender Order in accordance with its terms. I agree that this Order shall take effect upon

its issuance by the Board, either by mailing of a copy of the Surrender Order by first class mail to me at the address in this Surrender of License, or to my attorney by certified mail, or upon facsimile transmission to me or my attorney, whichever is first. The Surrender Order, this agreement, and all attached exhibits shall be public documents, with only patient identities or other confidential information, if any, redacted. As public documents, they may be posted on the Department's website(s). OPMC shall report this action to the National Practitioner Data Bank, the Federation of State Medical Boards, and any other entities that the Director of OPMC shall deem appropriate.

I ask the Board to accept this Surrender of License, which I submit of my own free will and not under duress, compulsion or restraint. In consideration of the value to me of the Board's acceptance of this Surrender of License, allowing me to resolve this matter without the various risks and burdens of a hearing on the merits, I knowingly waive my right to contest the Surrender Order for which I apply, whether administratively or judicially, and I agree to be bound by the Surrender Order.

I understand and agree that the attorney for the Department, the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct and the Chair of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct each retain complete discretion either to enter into the proposed agreement and Order, based upon my application, or to decline to do so. I further understand and agree that no prior or separate written or oral communication can limit that discretion.

DATE (0/10/2018

BONNIE L. CHEN, M.D. RESPONDENT DATE: (ct. 15, 2018

NATHANIAL WHITE
Associate Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 10 18 18

KEITH W. SERVIS

Director

Office of Professional Medical Conduct

# EXHBITA

IN THE MATTER

OF

BONNIE L. CHEN, M.D.

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

BONNIE L. CHEN, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on or about April 6, 2004, by the issuance of license number 231900 by the New York State Education Department.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- A. On or about July 12, 2018, the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners issued a Consent Order of Permanent Retirement that granted Respondent leave to retire her license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey, and that such retirement would be deemed a permanent revocation of license. The Consent Order resolved allegations before the Board of Medical Examiners regarding the Respondent's prescribing and dispensing of hormone replacement medications to her patients in 2015. The Consent Order of Permanent Retirement became effective on or about August 12, 2018.
- B. The conduct resulting in the New Jersey disciplinary action against the Respondent would constitute misconduct under the laws of New York State pursuant to the following section of New York State law:
  - 1. New York Education Law § 6530(3) (practicing the profession with negligence on more than one occasion).

#### SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(9)(d) by having his or her license to practice medicine revoked, suspended or having other disciplinary action taken, or having his or her application for a license refused, revoked or suspended or having voluntarily or otherwise surrendered his or her license after a disciplinary action was instituted by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, where the conduct resulting in the revocation, suspension or other disciplinary action involving the license or refusal, revocation or suspension of an application for a license or the surrender of the license would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York state (namely N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530[3]) as alleged in the facts of the following:

1. The facts in paragraphs A and B.

DATE: Oct. 15

, 2018

Albany, New York

MICHAEL A. HISER Deputy Counsel

Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

#### EXHIBIT "B"

# Requirements for Closing a Medical Practice Following a Revocation, Surrender, Limitation or Suspension of a Medical License

- Licensee shall immediately cease and desist from engaging in the practice of medicine in New York State, or under Licensee's New York license, in accordance with the terms of the Order. In addition, Licensee shall refrain from providing an opinion as to professional practice or its application and from representing that Licensee is eligible to practice medicine.
- Within 5 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall deliver Licensee's original license to practice medicine in New York State and current biennial registration to the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) at Riverview Center, 150 Broadway, Suite 355, Albany, New York 12204-2719.
- Within 15 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall notify all patients of the cessation or limitation of Licensee's medical practice, and shall refer all patients to another licensed practicing physician for continued care, as appropriate. Licensee shall notify, in writing, each health care plan with which the Licensee contracts or is employed, and each hospital where Licensee has privileges, that Licensee has ceased medical practice. Within 45 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall provide OPMC with written documentation that all patients and hospitals have been notified of the cessation of Licensee's medical practice.
- Licensee shall make arrangements for the transfer and maintenance of all patient 4. medical records. Within 30 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall notify OPMC of these arrangements, including the name, address, and telephone number of an appropriate and acceptable contact person who shall have access to these records. Original records shall be retained for at least 6 years after the last date of service rendered to a patient or, in the case of a minor, for at least 6 years after the last date of service or 3 years after the patient reaches the age of majority. whichever time period is longer. Records shall be maintained in a safe and secure place that is reasonably accessible to former patients. The arrangements shall include provisions to ensure that the information in the record is kept confidential and is available only to authorized persons. When a patient or a patient's representative requests a copy of the patient's medical record, or requests that the original medical record be sent to another health care provider, a copy of the record shall be promptly provided or forwarded at a reasonable cost to the patient (not to exceed 75 cents per page.) Radiographic, sonographic and similar materials shall be provided at cost. A qualified person shall not be denied access to patient information solely because of an inability to pay.
- In the event that Licensee holds a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) certificate for New York State, Licensee shall, within 15 days of the Order's effective date, advise the DEA, in writing, of the licensure action and shall surrender Licensee's DEA controlled substance privileges for New York State to the DEA. Licensee shall promptly surrender any unused DEA #222 U.S. Official Order Forms Schedules 1 and 2 for New York State to the DEA. All submissions to the DEA shall

be addressed to Diversion Program Manager, New York Field Division, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, 99 Tenth Avenue, New York, NY 10011.

- 6. Within 15 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall return any unused New York State official prescription forms to the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement of the New York State Department of Health. If no other licensee is providing services at Licensee's practice location, Licensee shall properly dispose of all medications.
- Within 15 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall remove from the public domain any representation that Licensee is eligible to practice medicine, including all related signs, advertisements, professional listings (whether in telephone directories, internet or otherwise), professional stationery or billings. Licensee shall not share, occupy, or use office space in which another licensee provides health care services.
- 8. Licensee shall not charge, receive or share any fee or distribution of dividends for professional services rendered by Licensee or others while Licensee is barred from engaging in the practice of medicine. Licensee may be compensated for the reasonable value of services lawfully rendered, and disbursements incurred on a patient's behalf, prior to the Order's effective date.
- 9. If Licensee is a shareholder in any professional service corporation organized to engage in the practice of medicine, Licensee shall divest all financial interest in the professional services corporation, in accordance with New York Business Corporation Law. Such divestiture shall occur within 90 days. If Licensee is the sole shareholder in a professional services corporation, the corporation must be dissolved or sold within 90 days of the Order's effective date.
- Failure to comply with the above directives may result in a civil penalty or criminal penalties as may be authorized by governing law. Under N.Y. Educ. Law § 6512, it is a Class E Felony, punishable by imprisonment for up to 4 years, to practice the profession of medicine when a professional license has been suspended, revoked or annulled. Such punishment is in addition to the penalties for professional misconduct set forth in N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a, which include fines of up to \$10,000 for each specification of charges of which the Licensee is found guilty, and may include revocation of a suspended license.